

On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff
Gallaudet University • 800 Florida Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002-3695



Gallaudet Dance Company members perform "Long Live Ayiti" in the spring show, "Fabulous and Fifty-Five," celebrating the 55th anniversary of the University's internationally acclaimed dance troupe. The performance brought 20 new and classic pieces to enthusiastic audiences at three sell-out shows held March 26 and 27. Sponsorship for the program came from the Department of Physical Education and Recreation and the National Delta Zeta Foundation.

Hillel holds Passover Seder



Hillel director Paula Tucker welcomes participants to the March 29 Passover Seder held in the Jordan Student Academic Center.

Gallaudet held its ninth annual Passover Seder on March 29. Hillel, the organization for Jewish life on campus, organized the event, drawing about 60 students, faculty, staff, and Jewish community members to the Jordan Student Academic Center to celebrate the holiday.

Hillel Director Paula Tucker made sure that nearly every attendee had a part to play in recounting the story of Moses, pharaoh's cruel bondage of the Israelites, and their escape from Egypt.

The story is one of rebirth and renewal, a saga truly fitting for spring. The Israelites, the story goes, fled in a great hurry, fearing the pharaoh would change his mind, and Moses led them through the Red Sea to a new life of freedom. They left in such a rush that their loaves of bread did not have time to rise.

Plenty of the flatbread—matzah—was on hand for the Seder. At the end of the evening, the children who were present searched for the *afikomen*, a half-piece of matzah set aside to be eaten as a dessert. In addition, Tucker added a new twist to the *afikomen* hunt by making one person at each table a winner. Whoever found a paper piece of matzah under his or her seat could bring home the daffodil centerpiece to enjoy the spring blossoms. ■



Jiayi Zhou (left), a graduate student in the International Development Program at Gallaudet and an award-winning artist, chats with a patron at her March 26 art opening at SOVA Espresso and Wine Bar, located at 1359 H Street, NE. Zhou's art show, "Silent Sound," opened with a bang at the café as Gallaudet students, faculty, and staff packed the second floor to chat and view the paintings. DJs Chris Nitti and Matthew Hemerlein provided music. "Silent Sound" is on display through April 29.

Community converges at Gallaudet Renaissance event

In front of a rapt audience that nearly filled the 262-seat theater in H Street Northeast's Atlas Performing Arts Center, a film featuring ASL storyteller Manny Hernandez depicts the biological architecture of a tree in an entirely new way: A hand fans open, the fingers gather as it nears pursed lips. Another hand blooms and demurely closes. Popping fingers take flight, then descend to curving palms that resemble columns rooted in the ground.

The performance is part of an eight-minute immersion into the richness that Gallaudet has to offer the world. The film, "Gallaudet," debuted on April 1 at an evening program billed as "The Gallaudet Renaissance." In attendance were the cast and crew of the film, members of the Gallaudet community, local developers, the head of the D.C. Office of Planning, and other invited guests.

The film begins with a black and white drawing on a sketchpad. The illustration pulls closer and closer until the viewer tumbles inside, like Alice discovering a remarkable new world after falling into a rabbit hole. Therein lies Hernandez's

story, as well as an artistic account of a DeafSpace presentation, snippets of Gallaudet history, a re-imagining of the Sixth Street market outside the Gallaudet walls, and glimpses of a vibrant classroom discussion and bustling student life. Visual effects and animation sponsored by Sprint Relay made the portrayal stunning.

President Alan Hurwitz introduced the film, hinting at the many underlying themes that the audience was about to see flash before them.

Dr. Dirksen Bauman, a professor of deaf studies and the film's producer, said the work—and the opportunity to show the film—can leverage the niches that Gallaudet already has. Gallaudet University, Bauman emphasized, "is perhaps the one and only small liberal arts university in the world that is at the epicenter of a large-scale paradigm shift." He added, "Gallaudet University began the revolution in the understanding of human language. Today, understanding the nature of language is more accurate, thanks to Gallaudet." This shift is only the beginning of the Gallaudet renaissance. The film is intended not to lecture about what Gallaudet has, but to inspire a

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Distinguished Faculty Lecture stresses value of international experience for students



Dr. Barbara White talks about the many attributes that working and studying abroad bring to students' higher education experience in her March 30 Distinguished Faculty Lecture. Looking on are student panelists (from second left) Yazmin Marin, Serge Okogo, and Elizabeth Steyer.

The enrichment that international study and internships provide to students' higher education experience was explored by Dr. Barbara White at her March 30 Distinguished Faculty Lecture. Her presentation, "Gallaudet and the Global Deaf Village," included a panel of students who told the audience about the positive impact their summer 2009 internships in South America and Africa had on their lives.

Advocating for the rights of disadvantaged people around the world—particularly deaf people in developing countries—has defined the life of White, a professor in the Department of Social Work. While deaf people in America have access to many opportunities for success—including a Gallaudet education—the sobering fact is that most deaf people in the world have, at best, a third grade education and have never heard of Gallaudet, and those who have regard the possibility of receiving an education at the University nothing more than a dream. White strives to make her students aware of these inequities, and to give them opportunities to bring about positive change in the lives of others, particularly deaf people and people with disabilities in developing countries.

Over the past 30 years, White has helped develop study abroad and internship programs around the world. "If I had a map of where Gallaudet has sent our students (to study and work), I believe it would cover the globe," she said.

In addition, White was one of six disaster mental health professionals sent by Gallaudet and the

Red Cross in 2005 to help residents displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

For the past two years, she has led the First Year Study Tour (FYST) to Costa Rica, a one-credit study abroad course, where Gallaudet's first year students get the opportunity to see another country, often for the first time, participate in service learning at a school for deaf students, interact with deaf Costa Ricans in LESCO (the sign language of Costa Rica), and learn about the history and culture of this progressive Central American nation. Experiences such as this have been life altering for many students, making them aware of their role as world citizens, and in many cases giving them more clarity on their choice of a major, and a new focus on their career goals.

White cited a report by the National Association of Study Abroad Educators showing that students who study or volunteer abroad and learn a new language are better prepared for the demands of the 21st century, and develop cross-cultural competencies that are recognized as essential skills in the job market. Unfortunately, the report also shows that only one percent of American college students have engaged in a work/study abroad program. Good news may be on the horizon, however, to give more students access to an international learning experience. White said the Senator Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act, which would provide grants to colleges and universities to help make studying

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Clerc Center Happenings

KDES Students Participate in Optimist International Communication Contest



Photo: Ruth Reed

Optimist Club representative Del Wynn presents KDES fourth grader Ksenia Markel with a medallion for winning first place in the 2010 Optimist International Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing on March 17.

By Susan M. Flanigan

KDES hosted this year's Optimist International Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for the Noonday and Sunrise Optimist Clubs. Modeled after the Optimist Oratorical Contest, this contest offers an opportunity for the students to present their thoughts in a community setting and build public presentation skills that can only come from the actual experience of signing or speaking to a large audience.

Ten KDES students presented essays on the contest theme, "Cyber Communication: Progress or Problem," in front of an audience and a panel of judges from KDES. The students were judged on their poise in delivery, self-expression in American Sign Language, and relevance to the topic.

Each of the contestants found positive and negative aspects to cyber communication. Ksenia Markel, first-place winner of the Noonday Club contest, said, "My dad is deaf and he didn't have a video-phone growing up. He had to call his friends or parents on a TTY. Now my dad can sit at home and sign with his family and friends using the video-phone," she said. "The problem with cyber communication is ... many kids sit in front of the computer for hours or text on their phones and don't go out and play. Many children are becoming too heavy, and this is a problem for their health."

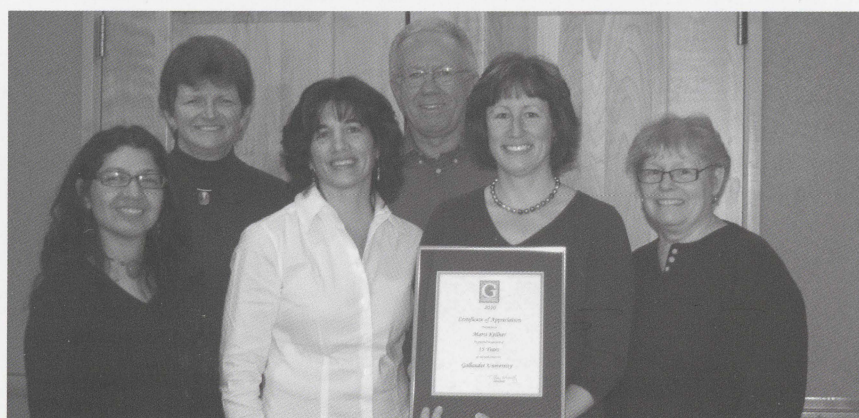
Johanna Cruz, first-place winner of the Sunrise Club contest, said, "The pos-

itive side of a pager is that it is good for emergencies. ... We need to be aware of them and not to abuse them to control our lives. ... Cyber communications are becoming more and more popular now. Let's use them wisely!"

Markel and Cruz each received a \$200 savings bond, a gold medallion, and an award certificate. Second-place winners Eliyas Assefa, for the Noonday Club contest, and Mauricio Orozco, for the Sunrise Club contest, each received a \$100 savings bond, a silver medallion, and an award certificate. The rest of the contestants—Tao De Odgen, Noah Spinosi, Gabriela Villatoro, Juwan Blackwell, Bailey Doleac, and Jackelin Choque—each received a bronze medallion and a participation certificate.

Elizabeth Hall, KDES teacher and contest representative, praised the value of contest participation. "I love doing this contest because it increases the students' interest and motivation to write. They learn how to write about a specific topic in organized paragraphs that clearly share their feelings. For many of our students, the contest is their first time to practice making a formal public presentation. But most of all, the students participate because it's fun," she said.

First- and second-place winners in the Noonday and Sunrise Club contests will represent KDES in Virginia's Optimist Club District Contest, which will take place at KDES on April 24. They will be competing with students from Virginia schools for a \$2,500 scholarship. ■



Marti Kellner, operations coordinator for ASL Diagnostic and Evaluation Services, receives her 15-year service award from Loretta Roulit, department director, at a March 10 staff luncheon.

Among Ourselves

President **T. Alan Hurwitz**, Board of Trustees Chair **Ben Soukup**, Trustee **Heather Harker**, and Special Assistant to the President for Operations/Board Liaison **Deborah DeStefano** attended the 2010 National Conference on Trusteeship, held March 19 to 23 in Orlando, Fla. The conference addressed urgent questions about the future of higher education and their implications for campus leaders and board members.

The Human Rights Council at American University invited **Amy Wilson**, program director for Gallaudet's International Development M.A. Program, to participate in a March 3 panel discussion entitled "Gender, Disability, and Conflict: Dialogues for Inclusion." Wilson was joined on the panel by Stephanie Ortoleva, an international human rights lawyer and former U.S. State Department disability advisor, and Tazreena Sajjad, a global rights program associate for Asia International Peace and Conflict Resolution for Afghanistan. The panelists discussed the participation of women in post-conflict peace building and transition, and strategizing on ways to include women with disabilities in that process.

Architect **Hansel Bauman**, director of campus design and planning in the Program Development Office, and **Robert Sirvage**, a designer and researcher at Gallaudet, participated in "From Silence to Science: an Interactive Evening on The Pursuit of Silence in a Noisy World," on April 9 in the Celeste Bartos Forum, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, in New York City. Bauman discussed Gallaudet's DeafSpace Project and Sirvage examined the everyday experience of the visual and tactile world with DeafSpace.

Campus donors get a personal 'thank you'



President Hurwitz presents a President's Circle pin to Janet Weinstock, English content specialist, K-12, in Planning and Organizational Development at the Clerc Center.

GratITUDE was a recurring theme at a March 30 breakfast hosted by the Office of Development to thank faculty, staff, and teachers who gave during the 2009 Campus Community Campaign.

"Without your help, we would not be able to make the progress we are making right now," President Hurwitz told attendees in the Kellogg Conference Hotel, noting that a strong campus donor base can give him leverage when talking to potential donors.

Dr. Hurwitz acknowledged the individuals who gave more than \$116,000 last year, extending special thanks to those in the President's Circle, who each contributed \$1,000 or more.

Undergraduate Joseph Lewis described how community support has helped him in his Gallaudet career and during his semester working at the White House. Post-baccalaureate undergraduate Song Hoa Choit also talked about how scholarship support helped her continue at Gallaudet, and pursue her goal of teaching math to deaf students.

The reasons for giving are as numerous as the donors who contribute, but most named students like Lewis and Choit as their inspiration.

In all, 25 percent of employees gave to the University in 2009. Before thanking them again for their generosity, Patricia Bowman, assistant director of annual giving in the Office of Development, urged the attendees to share their love of giving

with others. It is her hope to see even greater participation in 2010. "Please do talk to your colleagues about support," she said. ■

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Kendall Green
Gallaudet University
800 Florida Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002-3695

Published bi-weekly for the staff, teachers, and faculty of Gallaudet University by the Office of Public and Media Relations.

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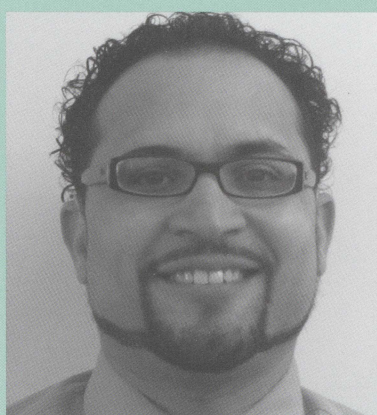
Roving Reporter

This issue's question in honor of Earth Day, coming up on April 22, is: What can one person do to make the planet a little greener?



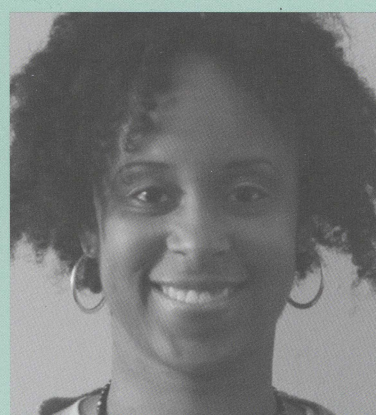
As individuals, we can collaborate with others in environmentally sound organizations or on efforts to change policies at the local government level.

Robert Whitaker,
school psychologist, KDES



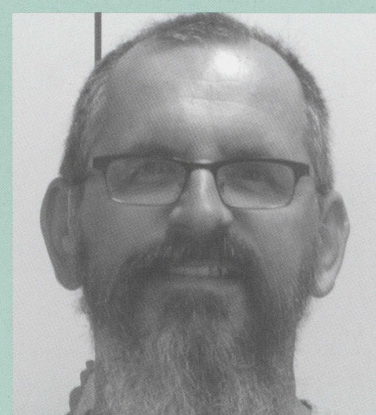
I believe everyone should make the planet a little greener by recycling and reducing their use of paper, plastic bags, and drink bottles.

Robert Zambrana, student intern,
Accounts Payable, Finance Office



I would love to see people have reusable water bottles to stop the landfills from being filled with extra junk.

Liletha Davidson, administrative
assistant, Contracts and Purchasing



Turn off the lights when not in use. Recycle things. If everyone picked up one piece of trash a day, the planet would be really green!

Andre Pellerin, lab, gallery and
equipment specialist

Global Deaf Village

continued from page 1

abroad—particularly in developing countries—a cornerstone of today's higher education, has passed the U.S. House of Representatives and now awaits a vote by the Senate.

White said Gallaudet's study abroad programs support Goal B of the University's Strategic Plan to improve student retention and graduation rates. In fact, the 95 percent retention rate of the 73 students who participated in the 2009 FYST program points to the usefulness of the FYST program as a tool for student retention as well as recruitment. The number of students on the 2010 FYST increased to 100. In terms of student success, study abroad opportunities, "are definitely a pay-off for the University," she said.

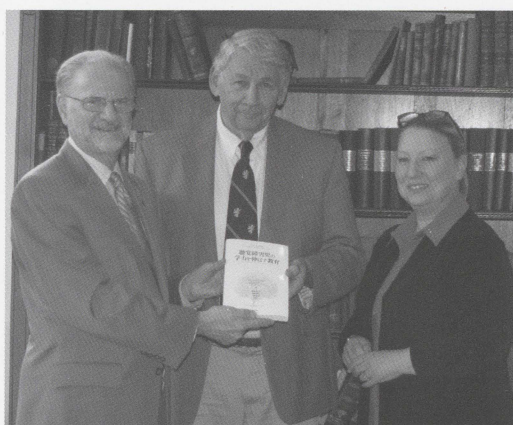
The three students on the panel—Yazmin Marin, Serge Okogo, and Elizabeth Steyer, bore out White's assessment of the value of working abroad. Marin and Steyer spent last summer working in schools for deaf students in Argentina and Chile, and Okogo worked at the Ecole Nationale des Enfants Difficient Auditif School, in Libreville, Gabon, as well as with the Ministry of Disabilities in Gabon. These internships were arranged through the work of Dr. Cristina Berdichevsky, a professor in the Department of Foreign Languages, Literatures and Cultures, with funding

support from the University's Career Center.

Marin believes that internships "provide exposure (to learning) on so many different levels." Her internship led to a job offer after graduation, and she is considering accepting it. Okogo, a native of Gabon and a graduate of one of the schools established by the late Andrew Foster, a well known Gallaudet alumnus, said that Gallaudet's resources provide an unmatched opportunity for deaf people to learn, "but international internships are also a great opportunity that allow us to connect with people," he said. "Students need this global experience, it is very beneficial for them." Steyer, who had never before traveled outside the U.S., said her internship helped put her life in context by being immersed in another culture. "It was a big challenge for me; I was outside my comfort zone," she said. But the internship "changed me 100 percent ... After my experience, I have a great desire to go out in the world and promote world peace."

White closed her presentation with a quote from President Barack Obama that summarizes the importance of international outreach: "You, more than anyone, have the ability to re-imagine the world, to remake this world." ■

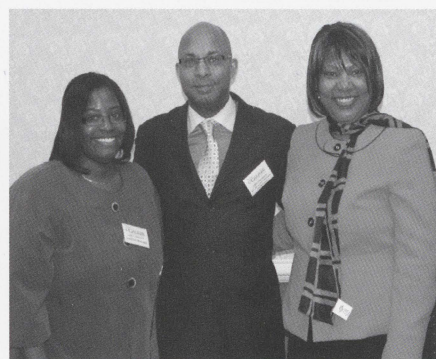
Note: A video of Dr. Barbara White's presentation is available on the web at video.gallaudet.edu/distinguishedfaculty.xml.



Curriculum and Instruction, released in 2010. Dr. Moores co-edited the volume, which was originally published in 2006, and Dr. Miller contributed the chapter "Individual Assessment and Educational Planning: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students Viewed Through Meaningful Contexts."

Dr. Donald Moores, a former professor at Gallaudet, and current professor in the Department of Exceptional Student and Deaf Education at the University of North Florida, and editor of the *American Annals of the Deaf*, and Dr. Margery Miller, dean of Enrollment Management Services and professor in the Department of Psychology, present a gift to President Hurwitz on March 15 on behalf of Midori Matsufuji, a faculty member at Gallaudet's Japanese sister school, Tsukuba University of Technology. The gift is the Japanese translation of the book, *Deaf Learners: Developments in*

Family conference presentation gives insights on deaf culture



Alesia Howard (left), a student in the Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program, gave a presentation on deaf culture at the 2010 Family Conference, an event hosted by Galilee Baptist Church in Upper Marlboro, Md. She is pictured with Shirley Hack-McCafferty, executive secretary in the Gallaudet Research Institute and an active member in Galilee's Deaf Ministry Program, and The Rev. Dr. Lloyd T. McGriff, pastor of the church.

An audience at the 2010 Family Conference, an event hosted by Galilee Baptist Church in Upper Marlboro, Md., gained valuable insights on deaf culture at a March 13 workshop led by Alesia Howard, a student in Gallaudet's Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program and a graduate student worker in Graduate School and Professional Programs (GSPP).

Howard's "Deaf Expo" focused on the rich culture shared by deaf people and the importance of providing equal access to communication. Her participation in the conference, entitled "The Family Growing Together," was arranged by Shirley Hack-McCafferty, executive secretary in the Gallaudet Research Institute, and Galilee's Deaf Ministry Program.

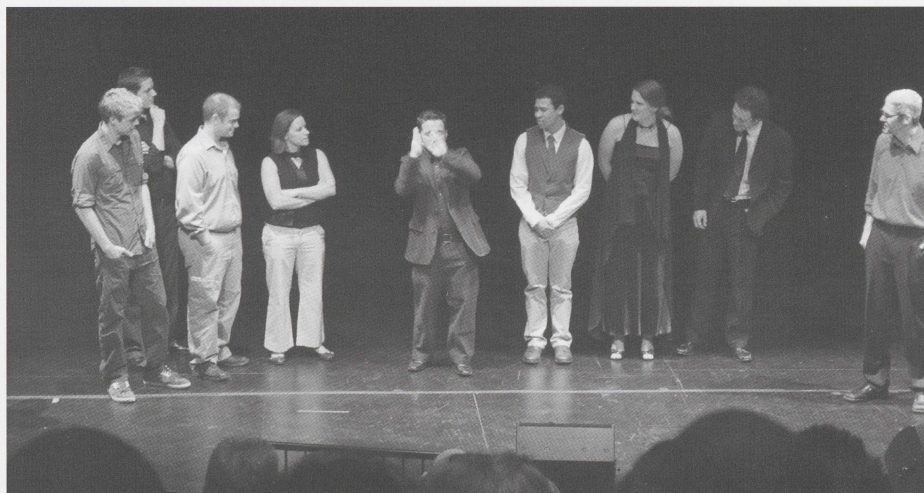
Galilee Baptist Church has taken a number of steps to serve the deaf community. It has an interpreting ministry for its deaf congregation, and Hack-McCafferty, a member of the Deaf Ministry Program, has initiated and coordinated community outreach efforts through the program, such as American Sign Language classes for medical staff at Kaiser Permanente in Largo, Md., and for employees at the Penn Mar Shopping

Center in Forestville, Md. She said she is motivated to take on these projects because, "I enjoy helping people, and I believe the deaf ministry is my life's calling by God." She became acquainted with Howard through Sheryl Johnson, who retired from GSPP in 2008. "One day, Alesia and I had a conversation about church, and soon after, when I learned that my church was planning to have a family conference, I decided to invite her," Hack-McCafferty explained. She had the enthusiastic support of Galilee's pastor, The Rev. Dr. Lloyd T. McGriff, who has made outreach to the deaf community a priority of the church.

Howard, who shared the stage with keynote speaker Roland Martin, a nationally award-winning journalist, syndicated columnist, and television and radio host and commentator, said she was honored to be asked to help make the church's congregation aware of the deaf community. "There are still many people who are clueless about the deaf community, and I was fortunate to present to a receptive audience willing and ready to work with a population that is typically underserved," she said. It is her hope that churches not only provide accommodations for deaf and hard of hearing people, but they empower them to lead in various ministry programs.

"Alesia's presentation was amazing, and Gallaudet Interpreting Service interpreter Pam Collins did an outstanding job," said Hack-McCafferty. "The congregation was so impressed with Alesia and her presentation; they said it was enjoyable, educational, and enlightening, and the church has asked her to come back for a follow-up."

Currently there is an open invitation for a student interpreter internship at Galilee Baptist Church, said Hack-McCafferty. The internship has been approved by GSPP Dean Carol Erting and Department of Interpretation Chair Steven Collins. ■



Ethan Sinnott, assistant professor in the Department of Theatre Arts, makes a comment about the making of the film "Gallaudet." He and other key players in its production were recognized on stage at the April 1 event "The Gallaudet Renaissance" following the film's screening.

Gallaudet Renaissance event

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leap ahead in thinking, changing the deaf education paradigm from one of rehabilitation to innovation.

Why film? "They say a picture is worth a thousand words," said Ryan Commerson, the film's director, "...what about a motion picture?" A few frames later, the audience could understand the choice of media.

Following the film, speakers examined the anatomy of that performance and the subject matter.

First came, "The Hand: A Natural Resource." Deaf studies professor Benjamin Bahan led this exploration of where ASL could take current technology. One can do so much with simple gestures on an iPhone, he pointed out. Imagine, now, the potential for complex hand movements like those Hernandez used.

Next came, "The Brain: VL2." Melissa Malzkahn, coordinator of community engagement for VL2 and a graduate of the Deaf Studies Program, touched upon the center's academic approach to unleashing the potential of visual learning. The National Science Foundation-supported research center poses the question, What if we changed our concept of hearing loss to deaf gain?

"The Body: Innovation Lab" portion of the evening brought in Fred Weiner, executive director of program development, and Hansel Bauman, director of campus design and planning. The two described a physical space they see forming across the street from the Gallaudet campus with a wealth of possibilities. Weiner and Bauman envision an

Innovation Lab and surrounding buildings that could house a motion picture studio, policy institute, culinary institute, deaf museum, science center, and much more. They are working with the developers and Small Area Plan approved by the City Council to create a space for both Gallaudet community members and city residents to live, learn, and make connections.

The next speaker moved from a physical center for the community to a spiritual place. Dr. Laurene Simms completed the exploration with "The Heart: Media." Via video, the professor in Gallaudet's Department of Education recalled an early encounter with the power of media through the movie *Roots*. The story of writer Alex Haley's enslaved ancestors grabbed the black community's attention in a new way, Simms said. Deaf media could jolt the deaf community awake, as well.

This film appears at an important moment in the history and future of Gallaudet. At a time when "niche" institutions of higher education, such as historically black colleges and universities and all-women's colleges, are questioning their relevance, many are consolidating their efforts into what they do best. The film embodies a vision of Gallaudet's strengths, and does it through the powerful tool of visual media.

As Bauman and Commerson envision, this film is but a small harbinger of a greater renaissance to come in deaf media production that, as the Gallaudet Strategic Plan states, "promotes Gallaudet and frames deaf people and their signed languages as positive aspects of human diversity." ■

Women's Awareness Month draws on campus experts



A group of Kendall Green women wearing pink shirts gathers in front of Chapel Hall to celebrate Women's Awareness Month.

Gallaudet's celebration of Women's Awareness Month kicked off with a focus on leadership.

Campus Activities Office hosted a Women's Leadership Retreat on the evening of March 5, drawing campus leaders with inspirational messages. Touria Boren, a program specialist in Enrollment Management Services, opened the event with "Who are we? Team Building." The evening moved on to dinner and a keynote address by Vicki Hurwitz, Gallaudet's first lady, entitled "Deaf Women Beat the Odds: If Only I Knew Then What I Know Now."

The evening concluded with "CAN-CANNOT," by Tiffany Granfors, Board of Trustees member and executive director of Deaflympics International Committee of Sports for the Deaf.

Next came a March 24 panel on international women's rights that drew on the experiences of Johanna Katz, an undergraduate from Argentina; Lauren Sanchez, an undergraduate from Cuba; Alicia Sort, an English Language Institute student from Spain; and Kaori Takeuchi, a graduate student from Japan. Each panelist gave a presentation, followed by questions from Dr. Beth Benedict, a professor in the Department of Communication Studies, who moderated the panel. The questions delved into the panelists' experiences and challenges in

seeking equal rights as deaf women.

Vicki Hurwitz again contributed to Women's Awareness Month by hosting a Tea Party at House One. The group enjoyed a tour of the historic house, followed by tea and scones.

Later that week, Rabbi Rebecca Dubowe of California led a Friday night Shabbat service and shared her story of becoming the world's first deaf woman rabbi. The event, organized by Hillel, the organization for Jewish life on campus, included deaf, hearing, and hard of hearing people from the campus and local Jewish community.

Another awareness-raising event came March 29 when Deaf Abused Women's Network's Sasha Ponappa and Amy Sandstrom Hill presented "Domestic Violence 101," sponsored by Campus Activities.

The month concluded in a jubilant and uniquely Gallaudet fashion on March 31. On that day, at the height of the lunch rush in the Jordan Student Academic Center, a band of students performed the "Bison Song." This version of the fight song, performed at countless pep rallies and athletic contests, focused on the women of Gallaudet. It seemed fitting for a month that brought out so many heavy hitters among the ladies of Kendall Green. ■



Dr. Margery Miller, dean of Enrollment Management Services and professor of psychology, congratulates Debra Lawson (second from left), director of outreach programs and publications/digital media in the Office of Enrollment Marketing, for 25 years of service to the University, and Janel Grossinger (second from right), assistant director of financial aid in the Financial Aid Office, for 20 years of service. (Also pictured are Charity Reedy Hines, director of admissions, and Randy Prezioso, registrar.)

Bison Roundup

Gallaudet snaps baseball skid

Gallaudet defeated Stevenson University (Md.), 5-3, in the first game of a double-header.

"I am really proud of my guys. This is a great win for our program," said Coach Curtis Pride, who is in his second season at the helm. "This win shows our players that they can compete with anybody in the conference. This is a great confidence builder for us."

The last time Gallaudet won a CAC game was on March 30, 1997, when the Bison beat St. Mary's (Md.), 4-1.

The Bison almost won the second game against Stevenson, but lost, 3-2. ■